

Columbia University

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE PLANNING AND PRESERVATION

AVERY HALL

For Immediate Release
March 19, 1990

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY TO UNVEIL NEW YORK CITY'S FIRST PUBLIC GALLERY DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO ARCHITECTURE

On April 4, 1990, Bernard Tschumi, Dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, will unveil the first public gallery in New York City devoted solely to exhibitions about architecture.

On the rationale for a gallery for exhibitions about architecture, Dean Tschumi explains, "While New York City has long enjoyed an enviable reputation as one of the world's architectural capitals, it is unusual that there has been, until now, no museum of architecture, no gallery devoted exclusively to the subject. With this new exhibition space at Columbia University, we intend to fill that gap."

The gallery space consists of 4,100 square feet in Buell Hall, the oldest building on Columbia's main campus. Built in 1876, the recently renovated brick structure is named for Temple Hoyne Buell, a major contributing architect and alumnus of the Columbia School of Architecture. The building also houses the Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, several offices of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, and studio jury rooms.

Exhibitions, which will be changed several times a year, will be installed in the 1,700-square-foot West Gallery and the 500-square-

foot South Gallery. In addition to its regular schedule of exhibitions, the gallery will occasionally present the work of young designers and architectural photographers in the South Gallery. The 1,700-square-foot East Gallery will serve as a conference space and, on occasion, as an extension of the West and South Galleries.

The first exhibition in the gallery, on view from April 4 through May 11, 1990, is devoted to the career of Paul Nelson (1895-1979), the American architect, film set designer, painter, critic, educator and aviator who taught and practiced architecture in the United States and in France for over 50 years, and who was a central figure in the development of functionalist architecture in the 1930s and 1940s.

THE FILTER OF REASON: WORK OF PAUL NELSON was curated by Terence Riley, an architect practicing in New York City who has taught at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, and at New York Institute of Technology. Co-curators are Joseph Abram, an architect living in Nancy, France, who is a professor at the Ecole d'Architecture de Nancy and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Metz; and Kenneth Frampton, an architect, critic and professor at the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.

Future exhibitions include the annual year-end show of work by architecture students at Columbia, which ranks among the finest in the country and will be shown for the first time to the public (May 14-June 2, 1990); and Learning from the Past, curated by Gwendolyn Wright, Director of the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the

study of American Architecture, offering new ways of looking at history and architecture (September 4-October 21, 1990).

The gallery will be open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call 212-854-3414 on weekdays between 10:00 a.m and 5:00 p.m.

The gallery can be reached by taking the IRT #1 train to the 116th Street stop, or the M4 or M104 bus to 116th Street. Enter the campus at 116th Street on either Broadway or Amsterdam Avenue. The gallery is situated east of Low Library, near St. Paul's Chapel.

For press information, please call David Hinkle, Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation,
212-854-3473.

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EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

TITLE: THE FILTER OF REASON: WORK OF PAUL NELSON

DATES: APRIL 4 - MAY 11, 1990

VENUE: The exhibition will be on view in a new gallery -- the first in New York City to be devoted exclusively to architecture -- located in Buell Hall, just east of Low Library on the main campus of Columbia University. Entrances to the campus are at 116th Street and Broadway, or at 118th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

CONTENTS: This major traveling exhibition represents the first comprehensive exploration of the work of Paul Nelson (1895-1979), the American architect, film set designer, painter, critic, educator and aviator who taught and practiced architecture in the United States and in France for over 50 years. Nelson was a central figure in the development of functionalist architecture in the 1930s and 1940s.

The exhibition explores the extent to which Nelson influenced architecture in America through his export of the artistic ideas of his modernist circle of friends (who included Georges Braque, Fernand Léger, Joan Miró and Alberto Giacometti), the aesthetic of Le Corbusier, and the rationalism of Auguste Perret. From the United States, Nelson brought to France the technological vision of his friend Buckminster Fuller, a fascination with metal and tensile structures, and an entirely new concept of institutional (especially hospital) design.

More than 240 objects, including architectural drawings, models, fine arts drawings, paintings and photographs, have been assembled for THE FILTER OF REASON. Also included are autograph letters representing more than 40 years of correspondence between Nelson and Le Corbusier, André Malraux, Joan Miró, Fernand Léger, Buckminster Fuller and others.

The works on view have been lent by the Drawings Collection of Avery Library, the Museum of Modern Art, and by the Nelson family.

CURATOR: Terence Riley, curator of the exhibition, is an architect practicing in New York City. He has taught at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, and at New York Institute of Technology.

CO-CURATORS: Joseph Abram is a painter and architect living in Nancy, France. He is Professor at the Ecole d'Architecture de Nancy and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Metz, and author of Perret et l'Ecole du Classicisme Structurel (1985).

Kenneth Frampton is a Professor at the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. He has worked as an architect in England, Israel and the United States. He has written extensively and contributed to numerous journals both in America and abroad. Forthcoming books include Labor, Work and Architecture (Rizzoli, 1990) and Studies in Tectonic Culture (MIT Press, 1990).

ORGANIZER: The exhibition was organized by the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, under the direction of Bernard Tschumi, Dean. It was made possible with the help of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council for the Arts and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

ABOUT THE GALLERY: The gallery is located in Buell Hall, the oldest building on the Columbia campus. Recently renovated, the 1876 red-brick structure formerly housed inmates of the Bloomingdale insane asylum. The grounds of the asylum, extending from 116th Street to 120th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway, were sold to Columbia University in 1892. Construction on the campus began in 1893.

Named after Temple Hoyne Buell, a major contributing architect and alumnus of the Columbia School of Architecture, Buell Hall also houses the Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture and several offices of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.

Exhibition space totals 4,100 square feet, divided into a 1,700-square-foot West Gallery; a 500-square-foot South Gallery, where the work of younger designers and architectural photographers will be showcased; and a 1,700-square-foot East Gallery, which will serve as a conference space and as an extension for the West and South Galleries.

TOUR: Following its close at the Buell Hall gallery, the exhibition will travel to the Graham Foundation in Chicago (September 1990) and the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal (March 1991).

CATALOGUE: The Filter of Reason: Work of Paul Nelson, published in conjunction with the exhibition, addresses every phase of the architect's long and fruitful career. The 152-page volume is the first in a planned series of books on architecture co-published by Columbia University and Rizzoli International Publications. The illustrated catalogue features essays by Terence Riley, Josef Abram, Kenneth Frampton, Ugo Nelson (son of Paul Nelson and a practicing architect in the south of France) and Bruno Reichlin (a practicing architect and professor on the Faculté des Lettres at the University of Geneva, Switzerland). It is available at Rizzoli and in architectural bookstores for \$29.95.

HOURS & ADMISSION: The gallery is open to the public from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. For additional information, the public may call 212-854-3414 weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

TRAVEL INFORMATION: The gallery can be reached by taking the IRT # 1 train to the 116th Street stop, or the M4 or M104 bus to 116th Street. Enter the campus at 116th Street on either Broadway or Amsterdam Avenue. The gallery is situated east of Low Library, near St. Paul's Chapel.

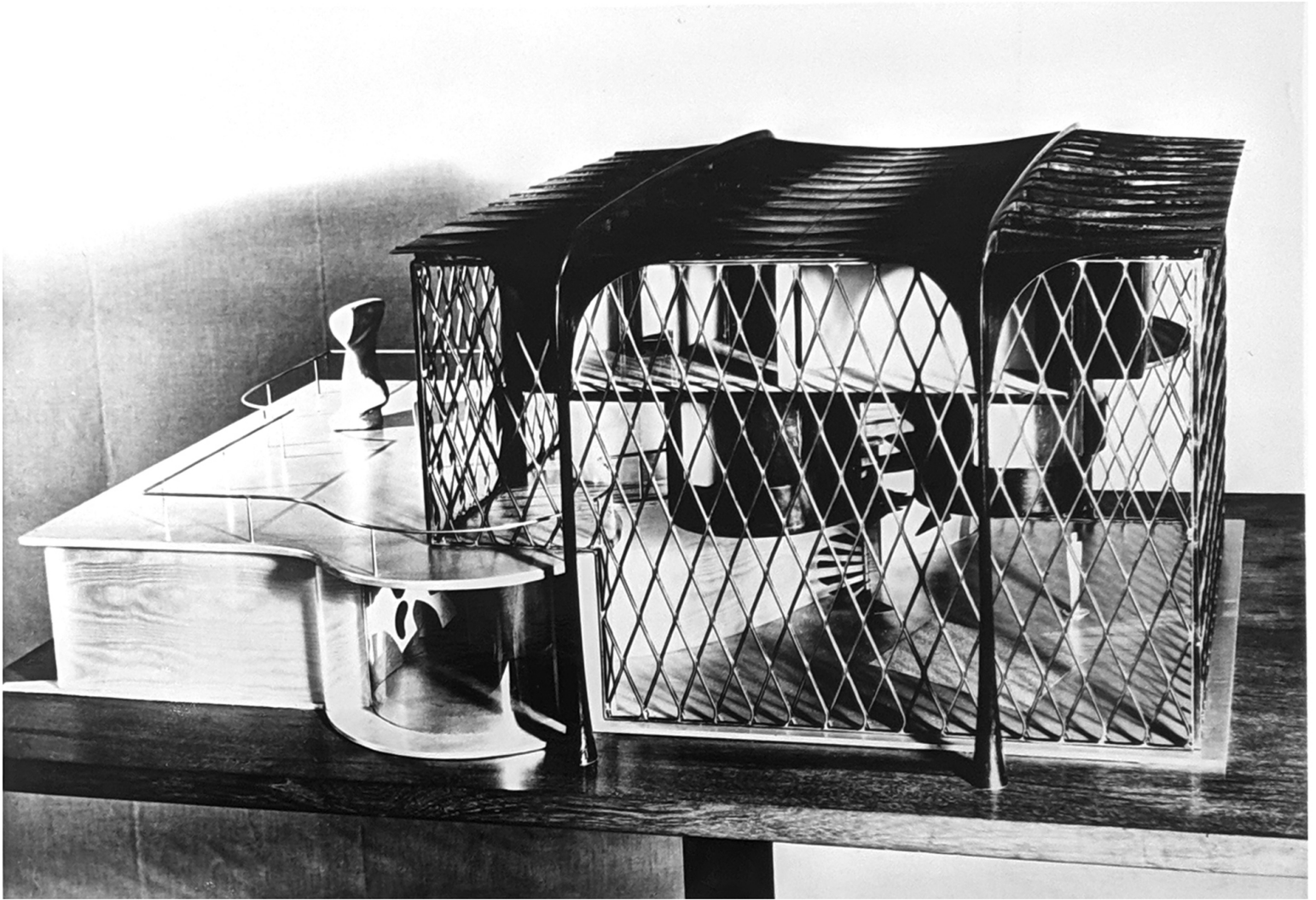
MEDIA PREVIEW: Monday, April 2, 1990, 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

For press information, please call David Hinkle, Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, 212-854-3473.



Palace of Discovery (Palais de la Decouverte), 1938
Paul Nelson with Oscar Nitzchke and Frantz Jourdain
Interior perspective rendering with Paul Grimault
Photo: Jeffrey Krantz

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Buell Hall, Columbia University, New York
April 4 - May 11, 1990



Suspended House (Maison Suspendue), 1936-38
Model (1938 version) by L. Dalbet
Mural studies by Joan Miró and Fernand Léger, sculptures by Jean Arp
Present whereabouts unknown
Photo: Hugo P. Herdeg

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